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Kickoff Event for Downtown Plan Set for Feb. 11

The City of Raleigh and the Downtown Raleigh Alliance are seeking residents' ideas and energy to continue the momentum of Downtown Raleigh's rebirth. A kickoff event for the City's Downtown Plan is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the lobby of Meymandi Concert Hall at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

The kickoff event will allow the public to meet with the Downtown Plan consultant team led by Sasaki Associates Inc., review Downtown maps and visuals, and try out MindMixer, the social media tool that will be used through the process to draft a Downtown Plan.

The Downtown Plan will create a 10-year vision that includes short-, mid-, and long-term improvements to Downtown Raleigh, with possible phasing scenarios that are widely supported and achievable. The Downtown Plan also is expected to identify and analyze redevelopment, public-realm, infrastructure, and connectivity improvements. The consultant team will work with stakeholders that include the Downtown Plan Advisory Committee which was appointed by the City Council in December.

It is expected to take nine months to complete the Downtown Plan. Throughout the process, public events will be held in which citizens will be asked to provide input.

City of Raleigh, Hanson Aggregates Settle Quarry Dispute and Avoid Condemnation Litigation; Settlement Provides Easements for Greenway Connection to Umstead State Park

Settlement Provides Easements for Greenway Connection to Umstead State Park

The City of Raleigh and Hanson Aggregates have reached a settlement in a dispute that first began more than 20 years ago. The City Council was informed of the settlement during its meeting today. The case focused on Hanson's quarry operations at 5001 Duraleigh Road in northwest Raleigh and its grandfathered status under zoning laws.

The comprehensive settlement is especially beneficial to both the City of Raleigh and homeowners near Hanson's quarry. Under terms of the agreement, the City will immediately obtain temporary and permanent easements from Hanson to connect Crabtree Creek Greenway with nearby Umstead State Park. The City's efforts to acquire property for this vital greenway connection were stalled for years because of the dispute with Hanson.

Terms of the settlement agreement are consistent with the City's long held position about Hanson's property to the south of Crabtree Creek.

"Not only does the settlement allow the City of Raleigh to save the quarry property south of Crabtree Creek from a new pit, it gives the City a definite time after which quarry operations will end on all of Hanson's land," said Deputy City Attorney Dorothy K. Leapley, who helped negotiate the settlement.

Other major terms of the settlement are:

- Hanson will not be allowed to develop its property south of Crabtree Creek for mining purposes at any time in the future but may continue to operate its sediment basins. Hanson may not timber its property to the south of Crabtree Creek even though it is allowable under existing State laws. Hanson will maintain a 100-foot buffer along the disputed property;
- Quarry operations at the site will cease after 40 years maximum. Blasting will stop after 30 million tons of aggregate has been removed or in 38 years, whichever occurs first;
- Hanson must construct a landscaped earthen berm on the north side of the quarry to buffer the site from nearby properties. Construction of the berm must start within six months after mining begins north of the current boundary and conclude by eight years or before Hanson's operations are 750 feet from the property border, whichever occurs first. The berm will further minimize the impact of blasting noise and quarry operations on surrounding property;
- The quarry will operate under a dust control plan to minimize dust from Hanson's operations;
- Hanson will take additional steps to address noise from the quarry. These include requiring the company to use blasting techniques that minimize impacts on nearby properties and limiting blasting to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except in the case of an emergency "or act of God." Also, there will be stringent enforcement provisions for blasting violations, and Hanson will allow the City to review its blasting records. Hanson will self-report to the City any blasting that exceeds the agreed upon level. The settlement agreement also requires Hanson to post blasting records online so that the public can review them. Hanson will comply with new ground vibration controls and move its primary crusher into its excavation pit at least 50 feet from the top of the pit. Furthermore, Hanson will only use low-frequency backup alarms on all its equipment;
- The quarry entrance will be moved to a "safer northern location to improve traffic safety on Duraleigh Road";
- Hanson will be required to engage in community outreach with nearby property owners. This includes establishing a neighborhood advisory group and implementing new procedures for investigating blasting damage complaints;
- The City will immediately obtain a 0.96-acre conservation easement protecting a glacial remnant of Catawba Rhododendron in an area along the southern bank of Crabtree Creek;
- The City will immediately obtain 7.46 acres for a nature park or nature preserve that will be near the confluence of Crabtree and Richland creeks; and,
- After quarry operations end and reclamation is complete, the City will have an option to acquire for \$10 the site's northern property that had been used for mining.

For more information, contact The City Attorney's Office at 919-996-6560.

Public Design Review on Milburnie Road Traffic Calming Effort Set for March 4

The Raleigh City Council will hold a design review with public input at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4 for the proposed traffic calming

project on Milburnie Road. Draft designs for the neighborhood streetscape project are complete. The proposed project would span Milburnie Road from Raleigh Boulevard to Chatham Lane.

The City conducted three neighborhood stakeholder meetings with the residents who would be affected by the effort. A major problem with traffic along the road is excessive speed, especially as the road decreases in elevation in several sections. The proposed design includes curb extensions that create a narrower visual path for the driver and shorten pedestrian crossing distances. Other treatments in the design require lateral shifting, constraining vehicle speeds.

"This traffic-calming effort wouldn't reduce the number of drivers," said Project Manager Jason Myers. "But hopefully, it will make them behave better."

The plan also includes pedestrian median refuges, making it easier and safer for them to cross the street. Also, the plan would implement the City's adopted bike plan by creating a bike lane on the uphill side of the street. The bike lane would also include short sections of protected areas, which would be the first such in Raleigh.

For more information, Contact Jason Myers at 919.996.2166

Union Station Construction Manager Is Selected

Clancy and Theys/Skansa, a joint venture, was selected by Raleigh City Council Feb.4 as the construction manager at risk for the first phase of the Raleigh Union Station project. The City, the Federal Railroad Administration and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Rail Division have been working together to develop the plan for the new Downtown rail station. The project will be completed in multiple phases.

Completion of the first phase of the project will relocate passenger rail service from the existing Amtrak station on Cabarrus Street to the Dillon Supply Company Warehouse, located at 510 West Martin Street, also known as the Viaduct Building. On completion of the multi-modal project, Raleigh Union Station will include connections to Capital Area Transit bus service, long-distance bus service, Amtrak, commuter rail and light rail, and facilities for taxis, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Comments received from residents, boards and commissions, stakeholders, and technical experts helped shape the project into what will be an iconic gateway with lasting civic value.

Council authorized solicitation of Statements of Qualifications for Construction Manager at Risk services for the project at its December 3 meeting. North Carolina general statutes provide the general framework for the construction-manager-at-risk process that includes planning, managing design and construction, cost analysis, scheduling, quality control and guaranteeing the construction cost. Funding for this phase of the Raleigh Union Station project was provided by a series of grants and local and state contributions.

Construction is scheduled to begin late 2014 or early 2015, with completion of this phase of the project planned for 2017. The total project cost for this phase is estimated to be \$73 million.

For more information, contact Richard Kelly at 919.996.5576

Feb. 12 Education Forum Looks to the Future of Downtown Transportation

Urban Design Education Forum

Feb. 12 Education Forum Looks to the Future of Downtown Transportation

The City of Raleigh's Feb. 12 education forum will look at the future of Raleigh as Transportation Planning Manager Eric Lamb will discuss evolving transportation needs that may lie over the horizon. Mr. Lamb will discuss how people may move throughout Raleigh in 10 years or so. He also will discuss the needs and methods of transportation as technology continues to evolve and how other cities may offer a glimpse of the future.

The forum will kickoff with opening remarks from Fred Merrill of Sasaki Associates, the firm conducting the Downtown Plan for the City of Raleigh. Mr. Merrill will look at what comes next as he leads the team responsible for mapping the next decade for Downtown Raleigh.

The forum will begin at 12 p.m. at the Urban Design Center, 220 Fayetteville Street. Also, residents are encouraged to attend the Downtown Plan kickoff event on Tuesday from 6 to 10 p.m. at Meymandi Concert Hall lobby. Both events are free and open to the public.

Ten Years Out: How Will Downtown Living Be for Children, Families and Elders? – March 19

Former City Council Member and Downtown living advocate Anne S. Franklin's presentation will span the ages asking: What do today's middle school students have to say? Will aging in place be a viable option for seniors? What will parents of preschools want out of life Downtown?

Population Growth, Sustainability and the Need for Urban Green Space – April 23

Danesha Seth Carley, PhD., assistant professor in North Carolina State University's Department of Crop Science, looks to answer "are many more people and a clearer Earth possible" by asking: Is there a place for green space in the city of the future? How can we increase and protect our green space and what value does that bring to our community? How will the city feed itself in an era of diminishing resources and an ever increasing carbon footprint?

Downtown: An Engine for Wake County's Tourism Strategy – May 21

David Diaz, CEO of the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, and Julie Brakenbury, director of services for the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau, offer a welcoming look into: The role of a downtown in attracting visitors. What are Downtown Raleigh's key strengths and challenges as a center for tourism? How does the Visitors Bureau quantify the economic impact of Downtown Raleigh's tourism assets?

The Future of Solid Waste Management in Raleigh – June 18

Bianca Howard, community education specialist for the City of Raleigh's Solid Waste Services Department, will explore what we will be throwing away in the future, asking: What will we consider waste in 2025? What will waste collection look like? How can we manage materials to capture their economic value and reduce environmental pollution?

For more information on the Education Forums, contact Beth Nooe at beth.nooe@raleighnc.gov or 919.996.4635.

City to Hold Public Meeting Thursday on Planned Six Forks Road Sidewalk, Pedestrian Crossing Improvements

Staff to Discuss Sidewalk and Crosswalk Improvements

The City of Raleigh will have a public meeting on proposed sidewalk and pedestrian crossing improvements on Six Forks Road. Citizens are invited to attend the public meeting which will be held Thursday, Feb. 13, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Room 305 of the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St.

Representatives from the City and Stewart Inc., the engineering design consultant for the project, will be available at the public meeting to answer questions and receive public input on the preliminary design of the proposed improvements. Maps will be available showing the planned improvements and adjacent development. The public meeting will have a "workshop" environment to allow for one-on-one discussions.

The proposed improvements consist of installing a continuous sidewalk on the north side of Six Forks Road from Coleridge Drive to Selby Drive. Also planned are pedestrian crossing improvements on Six Forks Road at the Anderson Drive, Selby Drive and Wake Forest Road intersections. To accommodate the new sidewalk, the project would extend the existing culvert at Big Branch west of Plantation Road.

Parking to attend the public meeting will be available on the street or in the parking garage immediately to the north of the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex. The parking garage can be entered from Morgan Street or McDowell Street. Individuals with hearing impairments who need interpretive services should call the City's Public Affairs Department at 919-996-3100 at least 48 hours prior to the public meeting.

For more information, contact Sammy Wood at 919.996.4059

Approval Given to Design Services Contract for I-40 Bridge Pedestrian Retrofits Improvement Project

The Raleigh City Council voted unanimously Feb. 4 to approve a \$302,648 contract with Wetherill Engineering for engineering design services for the Interstate 40 bridge pedestrian retrofits improvement project.

The project will improve pedestrian retrofits on three bridges on I-40 at Buck Jones Road, Avent Ferry Road and Rock Quarry

Road. The engineering design services contract with Wetherill Engineering will include roadway, utilities, storm drainage, erosion control, traffic control, pavement marking, signal and signing plans. The design also will include surveys, public and private subsurface utilities location, preparation of right-of-way plats for right-of-way acquisition, and bidding/contract documents suitable for letting the project to construction.

Wetherill Engineering is proposing to use small disadvantaged minority- and women-owned businesses (SDMWOB) for 90.45 percent of the work. Wetherill Engineering, a women-owned business, is a certified SDMWOB business with the City of Raleigh.

For more information, contact Chris Johnson at 919.996.3030

Mayor McFarlane to Represent Raleigh On Upper Neuse River Basin Board

City of Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane has been named to the Board of Directors, Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA).

Each of the 13 member jurisdictions in the watershed elects one director and two alternate directors to the UNRBA Board of Directors. Mayor McFarlane will represent the City on the Board of Directors and will lead Raleigh's efforts to cooperatively implement the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. Mayor McFarlane has served in this capacity previously, and will replace former Council Member Randy Stagner.

While announcing the appointment during the Feb. 4 meeting of the Raleigh City Council, Mayor McFarlane expressed her support of the goals of the UNRBA and her pleasure at once again serving on the board. "Issues surrounding water supply and quality for the City are of great importance," Mayor McFarlane said, "I'm happy to be serving again and I look forward to working with our partners to ensure our water resources remain protected and provide a source of clean water for years to come."

The UNRBA was formed in 1996 to provide an ongoing forum for cooperation on water quality protection and water resource planning and management within the 770-square-mile watershed of Falls Lake. Made up of seven municipalities, six counties, local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the South Grandville Water and Sewer Authority, the mission of the UNRBA is to preserve the water quality of the Upper Neuse River Basin through innovative and cost-effective pollution reduction strategies, and to constitute a forum to cooperate on water quality and water supply issues within the Upper Neuse River Basin.

Raleigh Supports Allowing N.C. Cities to Adopt Environmental Laws

The North Carolina General Assembly should allow the City of Raleigh and other local governments in the state the authority to adopt environmental ordinances, the Raleigh City Council unanimously agreed on Feb. 4. The vote authorized City Attorney Thomas McCormick to enter comments in support of the City's position to the General Assembly's Environmental Review Commission.

Session Law 2013-413, approved by the General Assembly last year, limits the powers of local governments to adopt environmental ordinances. The limitations are set to expire on Oct. 1. The session law also authorized a study of additional legislation to limit the powers of local governments in approving environmental ordinances.

The Environmental Review Commission has established a subcommittee to make a recommendation on the session law. The subcommittee members will be holding a public meeting Feb. 12 to receive comments. The City of Raleigh will submit oral and written comments to the subcommittee supporting Raleigh's position allowing the continuation of the long standing powers of the City to adopt environmental ordinances.

Interviews Begin March 4 for City of Raleigh's Summer Youth Employment Program

The City of Raleigh will accept applications and conduct interviews for its Summer Youth Employment Program in March. The program helps teenagers between the ages of 15 and 18 to develop their skills and prepare for future employment by spending the summer working for the City.

Teenagers interested in summer jobs with the City will be able to take part in interviews and submit applications March 4-27. Those selected will work 20 to 30 hours a week as office staff, light laborers, staff assistants, and recreation counselors. The program runs from June 16 to Aug. 15, and pays \$7.25 an hour.

The Summer Youth Employment Program provides not only work experience but life skills training and mentoring by local lawyers and law enforcement officers. Teenagers in the program attend workshops on topics such as employment readiness, communication, budgeting, decision-making and conflict resolution.

To be eligible, a teenager must live in the Raleigh City limits and be at least 15 and no older than 18 as of May 31. To prove age and residency, applicants must submit a clear photocopy of a North Carolina driver's license, learner's permit or NC state identification card. (Copiers will not be available at the interview sites.) Documentation must be provided at the time of interview. Temporary driving certificates, state identification cards receipts, and school identification cards will not be accepted.

Applicants will be required to complete their application and interview during the same session. Names and contact information for three references are mandatory.

All interview and application sessions will be from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the following locations and dates:

- Tuesday, March 4 at Millbrook Exchange Park, 1905 Spring Forest Road;
- Thursday, March 6, Biltmore Hills Community Center, 2615 Fitzgerald Drive;
- Monday, March 10, Lake Lynn Community Center, 7921 Ray Road;

- Wednesday, March 12, Lions Park Community Center, 516 Dennis Ave.;
- Friday, March 14, Roberts Park Community Center, 1300 East Martin St.;
- Tuesday, March 18, Chavis Community Center, 505 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.;
- Thursday, March 20, Tarboro Road Community Center, 121 Tarboro Road;
- Friday, March 21, Marsh Creek Community Center, 3050 New Hope Road;
- Tuesday, March 25, Worthdale Community Center, 1001 Cooper Road; and,
- Thursday, March 27, Method Pioneer Building, 514 Method Rd.

The City of Raleigh Community Services Department administers the Raleigh Summer Youth Program.

For more information, contact Cathey Ector at 919.996.6100

City to Seek Grant for Police Department DWI Squad

On Feb. 4, the City Council authorized the City of Raleigh Police Department to apply for a second year of grant funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to maintain a Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) enforcement squad

The goal of the DWI squad is to detect and arrest impaired drivers. The squad consists of four police officers and one sergeant. The squad began operation at the end of last year.

The \$339,293 grant would fund 85 percent of the costs for salaries, fringe benefits, promotional items, and travel costs for in- and out-of-state training opportunities. The 15 percent City of Raleigh matching funds of \$59,875 will be paid from the controlled substance tax reserve.

Raleigh And Xiangyang, China Win 2014 U.S. - China Sister Cities Innovation Award

The City of Raleigh and Xiangyang, China have won Sister Cities International's 2014 United States-China Sister Cities Award in the "Most Innovative" category. The United States-China Sister Cities Awards recognize the accomplishments of outstanding United States-China Sister City programs and their contribution in building strong people-to-people ties between the two countries.

"We're very pleased to receive this international recognition of the innovative accomplishments of Raleigh and Xiangyang, its sister city," said Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane. "The Sister City program has proved its value many times over."

James Montague, chair of the China city committee of the Sister Cities Association of Raleigh said, "Receiving this award brings even more positive international attention to Raleigh. It also reinforces the fact that Raleigh is one of the most innovative cities in the country."

Raleigh and Xiangyang, Hubei Province, have engaged in numerous education, business and economic exchanges since establishing a Sister City relationship in November 2008. In 2012, Xiangyang, Raleigh and Osogbo, Nigeria, began establishing public health centers in the African city as part of the Sister Cities International-funded Sino-African Initiative. Xiangyang and Raleigh will focus on collaboration in education and the high-tech industry in the future.

The United States-China Sister Cities Awards are presented in several categories, including Best Overall, Longest Relationship, Community Involvement, Youth, Arts and Culture, Economic Development and Trade, Most Innovative, and Outstanding Individuals. Award winners will be honored at a special awards ceremony on March 27 during the 2014 United States-China Sister Cities Conference, in Washington, D.C.

The conference, jointly hosted by Sister Cities International and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, will bring together hundreds of business leaders, Governors, Members of Congress, Mayors from around the country and citizen-diplomats from the United States and China. For more information visit the 2014 United States-China Sister Cities Conference website.

Raleigh's Sister Cities also include Kingston Upon Hull, England; Compiegne, France; and Rostock, Germany.

About Sister Cities International

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan serving as the national membership organization for individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States. This network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats of citizen diplomats from 500 UNITED STATES communities with partnerships in nearly 2,000 cities in 140 countries around the globe.

Sister Cities International advances peace and prosperity through cultural, educational, humanitarian, and economic development exchanges. It serves as a hub for institutional knowledge and best practices in the field of citizen diplomacy.

Arts Commission Issues Call for Nominations for Medal of Arts Awards



The City of Raleigh Arts Commission is accepting nominations for the 2014 Medal of Arts awards, the City's highest arts honor. Nominations should describe an individual's or group's extraordinary lifetime artistic achievement or support of the arts. Guidelines and nomination form are available on the Arts Awards and Recognition page.

The deadline for nominations is Thursday, March 27.

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission initiated the Medal of Arts awards program to celebrate artistic excellence and extraordinary arts achievement. The program was established in 1984 and is based on the National Medal of Arts program. Throughout the past 27 years, the City has recognized 136 individual artists, groups and businesses with a prestigious Medal of Art.

"As we prepare to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Raleigh's Medal of Arts ceremony, another extraordinary group of recipients will be recognized," said Clyde Lundy, chair of the Arts Commission. "The City of Raleigh Arts Commission is honored to continue this tradition supporting our creative community. Please join your fellow citizens as we celebrate this creative soul of our community and our connectedness – another event recognizing artistic engagement in the Southern capital of arts and culture."

Past medal winners include Nancy Olson, The Triangle Philharmonic and Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein.

"We have such a wonderful arts community in Raleigh, and the Medal of Arts event is a grand celebration for the many people who help make it so great," said Duke Raleigh Hospital Guild President Laura Raynor, past medal recipient and former chair of the Arts Commission. "Winning a Medal of Arts is a huge honor."

Medal of Arts awards will be presented to recipients at a ceremony at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts in October.

The Office of Raleigh Arts fosters and promotes the arts in Raleigh by administering the programs of the Raleigh Arts Commission and the Public Art and Design Board, and supporting the Pullen and Sertoma arts centers. The Office of Raleigh Arts is a part of the City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

For more information, contact Belva Parker at 919.996.3610

Public Works Committee to Discuss Pet Prohibition in Areas of City Parks

The City of Raleigh's Public Works Committee will review a recommendation from the Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board to prohibit dogs and other pets from certain areas in the parks system. For more than a year, the board has been reviewing a plan to prohibit pets from playground areas, athletic fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, and other areas. The board unanimously agreed to recommend the ban after a series of public meetings and committee hearings. The committee will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 5 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex at 222 W. Hargett Street.

City Council Approves Territorial Jurisdiction Agreement for North Carolina State University Police

On Feb. 4, the Raleigh City Council approved a territorial jurisdiction agreement with the North Carolina State (NCSU) University Police Department.

The City of Raleigh Police Department has developed a close working relationship with the North Carolina State University Police Department. In 2010, the City Council approved an agreement of the expansion of the territorial jurisdiction of NCSU Police pursuant to N.C.G.S. 116-40.5.

The statute allows a municipality to grant jurisdiction to a campus law-enforcement agency affiliated with the North Carolina University System. It was decided that an agreement for a strategically limited expansion of NCSU Police jurisdiction would allow for faster, more efficient cooperation between agencies and response to calls for service. The current agreement has expired. Renewal of this agreement would result in continued efficient use of resources for both agencies.

Under the terms of the agreement, NCSU Police officers would be granted the following additional authority:

- Limited extra-territorial jurisdiction on streets and property immediately surrounding campus;
- jurisdiction at certain, specified, addresses that are not on campus but serve as campus housing;
- the ability to arrest or charge for any misdemeanor or felony committed in the presence of on-duty NCSU Police Officer while inside the City of Raleigh; and,
- the ability to serve arrest and search warrants for crimes committed on campus with the express consent of the Raleigh Police Department Watch Commander.

Under the terms of the agreement NCSU officers would be prohibited from conducting routine patrol beyond their currently existing territorial jurisdiction. The agreement will allow for a more efficient utilization of resources for both agencies. There is no cost to the City associated with this agreement.

Public Hearing Set for March 4 on Bland Road Rezoning Case

The Raleigh City Council will hold a public hearing on March 4 to discuss amending the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The proposed change would amend the Future Land Use Map designations for properties along Bland Road from Moderate Density Residential to Office & Residential Mixed Use.

The City of Raleigh Planning Commission initiated a small area planning study to examine the properties in response to a rezoning petition in the area. The Commission found that the subject properties have become less desirable for single-family use and more viable as offices or higher-density housing. The property owners and immediate neighbors were in favor of the change on the Future Use Land Map.

The public hearing will be at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St.

For more information, contact Ken Bowes at 919.996.2626

Capital Area Transit Presents “Be Mine, R-Line” Valentine’s Day Event

Capital Area Transit is hosting “Be Mine, R-LINE,” a Valentine’s Day event on the R-LINE on Friday, Feb. 14

When a passenger rides the “Be Mine, R-LINE” on Valentine’s Day between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm they will receive a free Valentine’s Day chocolate bar (one per person and while supplies last). Along with a free tasty treat, the passengers also will have a chance to win a free \$50.00 gift card from 518 West Italian Café or The Big Easy, which will make for a perfect dinner date. Passengers also may enter to win a free 30-minute massage from Epona & Oak. All prize vendors are located off of the R-LINE route in downtown Raleigh.

The R-LINE is a free ride through Downtown Raleigh, with the option to hop on or off at any of the 20 stops along the route. The operating hours for the R-LINE are Monday through Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 2:15 a.m., and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. To access the R-Line mobile application, visit www.raleighrides.org. R-Line began in February 2009.

For more information, contact Lindsay Hester at 919.996.4042.

New Appointments Named To City Boards

During the City Council meeting on Feb. 4, four new appointments were made to the City of Raleigh boards and commissions.

Lemuel Whitsett was appointed to the Planning Commission. Patrick Buffkin was appointed to the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board. Irene Godinez was appointed to the Raleigh Transit Authority. Angie Thompson was appointed to the Substance Abuse Advisory Commission.

Raleigh residents have the opportunity to volunteer their services to the City to serve without pay on various boards, commissions and committees. Some of these groups are established in the City Charter. Others are created by the Mayor or City Council to perform special, limited functions.

Where not specified by law, it is the City’s policy to appoint citizens to serve two-year terms with a maximum of six consecutive years of service on any specific board or commission. Citizens may serve on no more than two commissions, boards or committees concurrently.

Follow the City of Raleigh on Twitter



Looking for the most up-to-date information from the City of Raleigh? Follow your local government via Twitter! Twitter is a free services that allows you to “follow” people or subjects via short, frequent updates.

The City of Raleigh now offers Twitter users the opportunity to stay informed about the latest news and breaking events. Currently, the City maintains the following accounts:

RaleighGov - This feed features links to any news releases and alerts issued by the City of Raleigh;

RaleighBPAC - This feed features information from the City of Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission;

RaleighParks - This feed features news and information related to the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department;

RaleighPlanning - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Planning and Development Department;

RalCommServices - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Community Services Department;

RW911 - This feed features traffic accidents reported to the Emergency Communications Center;

RaleighGoGreen - This feed features news and information from the City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services Department Recycling program.

RalPublicArt - This feed features information about the City of Raleigh Arts Commission Public Art Program.

To follow any of these, simply choose “Find People” from your Twitter home page and type in the account name you are interested in and then click “follow.” It’s that easy.

Follow the City of Raleigh on Facebook



City of Raleigh - The main City of Raleigh Facebook page keeps you informed about events, holidays and other news items.

City of Raleigh Planning and Development - The Raleigh Planning and Development page provides guidance for the growth, preservation and development of the City of Raleigh in order to maintain a community of lasting value.

City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department - Keep with news and information from the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department.

Community Services Department - The Community Services Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

Emergency Communications - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagement and other 911 related happenings.

Raleigh Police Department -The Raleigh Police Department Facebook page focuses on public safety. Posts concerning crime alerts, missing people, requests for citizen assistance and more.

Raleigh Public Art - Raleigh Arts Commission’s Public Art program is an essential building block for the creation of engaging, imaginative spaces throughout the city. Department Facebook

page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

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Raleigh Public Art - Raleigh Arts Commission's Public Art program is an essential building block for the creation of engaging, imaginative spaces throughout the city.

Traffic Alerts

For more City of Raleigh News and Updates on Road Closures, Parades and Road Races, visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov.

Street Closings

First Friday Closings

On First Friday of each month, from 6 p.m. to midnight, the 00 block of Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and Wilmington Street will be closed. This closure will also include the south side sidewalk of the block.

March 8 The 100 block of Fayetteville Street will be closed between Morgan Street and Hargett Street from 9 a.m. until 11 p.m. Also, the parking spaces in the 100 block of Fayetteville Street will be encumbered starting at 8 a.m.



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